GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4151
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Preservation of Traditional Seeds
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to encourage and conserve the seeds of various varieties of traditional crops and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether farmers are being made aware to deal with the challenges of climate change by conserving traditional crops and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed by the Government for the storage of traditional varieties of seeds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ?????? ???????? ??? ????? ?????? (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Government has a policy to encourage conservation of the seeds of traditional varieties of various crops. The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) has conserved 64,829 traditional varieties in Gene Banks located in different States.

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Authority (PPV & FRA) has also registered 1070 traditional varieties of different crops. PPV & FRA encourages the community and individuals engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of plant genetic resources of economic plants and their wild relatives particularly in the areas identified as agro-biodiversity hotspots by awarding the community and individuals who have played stellar roles in such activities.

(b): NBPGR and PPV & FRA organizes biodiversity awareness programmes and training for farmers to strengthen community seed system and create awareness to conserve indigenous crop varieties and climate resilient traditional land races of local crops every year.

(c): As collection and conservation of traditional varieties is a continuous activity, 42 exploration and collection missions will be undertaken mainly to collect traditional varieties from tribal areas in the next year by NBPGR.
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